



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 18, 2009

**MAYOR JERRY SANDERS**  
**MEDIA RELEASE**

**MAYOR UNVEILS HIGH-TECH SOLAR POWERED  
PARKING METERS**

*Pilot Program Downtown and Uptown will Evaluate  
Effectiveness and Convenience of New Meters*

Mayor Jerry Sanders has unveiled 51 new high-tech solar-powered parking meters being evaluated for use throughout the City. The new meters have been installed as part of a pilot project underway in the Uptown and Downtown Community Parking Districts. The four-month project will allow the City to evaluate the effectiveness and convenience of the new meters.

The new meters:

- Run on solar-generated electrical power
- Serve a single parking space
- Accept credit cards, pre-paid parking value cards or coins
- Are easily installed on existing meter poles

**NEW METERS IMPROVE THE ENVIRONMENT AND CITY'S PARKING MANAGEMENT  
EFFORTS**

The solar-powered mechanisms are more environmentally friendly than existing single-space meters because they reduce battery usage and disposal needs when compared to existing mechanisms. Real-time communication capabilities provide more complete and

timely information and statistics for the City's parking management effort. The new meters also allow greater flexibility and control of parking meter rates and include more robust displays with better information and instructions for users.

#### **LOCAL FIRM DESIGNED AND DEVELOPED THE NEW METERS**

The IPS Group, Inc., located in San Diego, designed and developed the new meter technology. The firm is a global engineering and manufacturing company with offices in 6 countries and more than 15 years of experience in both the telecommunications and parking industries. IPS will be assisting the City to evaluate the outcome of the pilot project.

The technology developed by IPS provides meter users with greater convenience by allowing a broader range of payment options including credit cards, pre-paid parking value cards as well as coins.

#### **PILOT PROJECT INCLUDES TESTING SENSORS FOR INDIVIDUAL PARKING SPACES**

During the four-month pilot effort the City will also be testing new parking sensors designed for compatibility with the solar meters. The special sensors can track parking activity at individual spaces. When the two systems are combined, the high-tech meters can automatically record the number of arrivals and departures and whether parkers are paying the right amount for the time they use. That information can help the City improve the efficiency and effectiveness of its parking management and planning efforts. It will also let the City determine areas that might need additional parking enforcement efforts.

#### **PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS**

<b>Evaluation Period:</b>	January 20, 2009 through April 20, 2009
<b>Number of Meters:</b>	51
<b>Mechanism Vendor:</b>	IPS Group, Inc of San Diego, CA
<b>Pilot Project Areas:</b>	3800 4th Ave (24 meters) 600 West G St (5 meters) 600 6th Ave (13 meters) 500 Market St (6 meters) 600 5th Ave (3 meters)
<b>Payment Methods:</b>	Credit card, coin, pre-paid parking value card
<b>Key Stakeholders:</b>	City of San Diego, Uptown Partnership, Uptown Community Parking District, Center City Development Corporation, Downtown Community Parking District, Downtown Parking Management Group

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